

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Health and Family Services
Division of Children and Family Services

DCFS Memo Series 2006 – 11
June 29, 2006
Re: EXPANDED CAPACITY
FOR ADOPTION SERVICES

Supersedes DCFS Memo Series 2004-07

To: Area Administrators/ Human Services Area Coordinators
Bureau Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Developmental Disabilities
Services Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Licensing Chiefs/Section Chiefs
Tribal Chairpersons/Human Services Facilitators

From:

for Burnie Bridge
Administrator WBT

Since July 2000, the Division of Children and Family Services has contracted with private licensed adoption agencies to provide special needs adoption services. The contracts were awarded to private adoption agencies outside of Milwaukee County. Each lead contract agency sub-contracts with licensed agencies that share these responsibilities under the direction of the lead contracted agency. The chart below reflects the adoption agencies that are working in partnership with DCFS adoption staff in each region:

<u>REGION</u>	<u>CONTRACT AGENCY</u>	<u>SUB-CONTRACTOR(S)</u>
Eastern	Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan	Bethany Christian Services Children's Service Society of Wisconsin
Counties Served:	Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Fond du Lac, Forest, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Langlade, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Shawano, Sheboygan, Vilas, Washington, Waupaca, Winnebago and Waushara	
Southern	Children's Service Society of Wisconsin	Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Madison Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan
Counties Served:	Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Lafayette, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Walworth and Waukesha	
Western	Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan	Catholic Charities of the Diocese of LaCrosse Children's Service Society of Wisconsin
Counties Served:	Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Buffalo, Burnett, Chippewa, Clark, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Iron, Jackson, LaCrosse, Marathon, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Portage, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon and Washburn, Wood	

DOCUMENT SUMMARY

This memo describes the partnership between the State and private licensed adoption agencies. This partnership has been in effect since July 2000 and expanded special needs adoption services capacity. It advises county social/human service staff that these contract partners should have access to county records in the same way as DHFS staff when providing services under this contract.

DCFS staff remains the primary contact to county social and human service agencies. The Adoption Unit Supervisors in our three regional offices are available to assist you if you have questions. (Southern Region: 608/243-2397; Eastern Region: 920/448-5348; Western Region: 715/836-3399)

We request the continued cooperation of your staff to provide the requested information to representatives of our contract and sub-contract partners. As representatives of DHFS, staff of the contract subcontract agencies has the same access to confidential information needed for providing services under contract as DHFS staff. The contract adoption workers will seek information from your agency to pursue a prompt and appropriate adoption for a child and to assess, prepare, and support prospective adoptive parents.

Our joint efforts continue to result in permanency for children and stable adoptive families. Over the last two calendar years, approximately 2,200 adoptions of children with special care needs were finalized. The combination of your prompt and continued efforts to free children for adoption when they cannot be reunited with the birth family and our special needs adoption partnership will allow us to continue this trend towards timely and quality permanence.

REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT: Adoption Unit Supervisors

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Dale Langer, Manager
Adoption and Consultation Section
DCFS/BPP
P. O. Box 8916
Madison, WI 53708-8916
608/266-3595

WEB SITE: http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/dcfs_info/

cc Licensed Adoption Agency Directors

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